In the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Serial Number: 10/574,733
Appn. Filed: U.S. Nat. Phase Filing Date: 06 April 2006
Applicant(s): Ernst Werner Wagner
Appn. Title: Device for Preventing and Extinguishing Fires
Examiner/GAU:

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir or Madam:

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.97 (b), Applicant hereby files an Information Disclosure Statement (IDS). This IDS discloses the 9 prior publications cited by the International Search Report, an English copy of which was provided with the national phase submission. This IDS also discloses 2 prior publications that were cited by the German Patent Office in a recent communication to Applicant.

Of the 11 total prior publications disclosed, 5 are not in English. The 5 non-English references are: EP1103286; DE10121550; EP1312392; DE19811851; and DE19934118. An English translation of DE10121550 is given in published application US20030226669, and an English translation of DE19811851 is given in Canadian patent CA2301628. Copies of both US20030226669 and CA2301628 are attached to this IDS.

For the remaining publications (EP1103286, EP1312392, and DE19934118), English translations are not available. Hence, Applicant submits the following statements about their relevance:

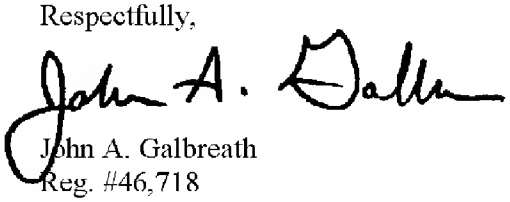
EP1103286 discloses an inert rendering system for extinguishing fires in tunnels. The conventional system comprises a storage tube (4), for storing an oxygen-inhibiting gas, and valve means (6) connected with the storage tube (4) for introducing the oxygen-inhibiting gas into a predetermined tunnel sector via outlet nozzles (7). In the prior art, the storage tube (4) is placed in the main tunnel (1) itself or in another tunnel system parallel to the main tunnel. In the case of a fire, the at least one valve means placed near the position of the fire is automatically or remote controlled opened. For this purpose, the tunnel (1) comprises a fire detector means (3, 6) which is suitable and adapted to manipulate the valve means (6) automatically.

EP1312392 discloses an inert rendering method and apparatus for extinguishing fires in tunnels or tunnel systems. In the case of a fire, an inerting space is formed by separations, the

melting space bordering the section of the tunnel in which the fire is detected. After the separation of the tunnel, an oxygen-inhibiting gas in introduced into the inerting space in a sudden manner in order to adjust a level of inertion with a reduced oxygen content adapted for fire extinguishing. In the prior art according to EP'392 a smoke venting system is taken into account which does not influence the level of inertion adjusted in the inclting space. For this purpose, the reduced oxygen content in the melting space is maintained by introducing the oxygen-inhibiting gas at a controlled rate.

DE19934118 discloses an inert rendering method for extinguishing fires in tunnels. In the case of a fire, the tunnel is separated into a plurality of sections, wherein one of the sections forms an mnerting space in which the fire is detected. After separating the tunnel, an oxygen-inhibiting gas is introduced into the inerting space in order to extinguish the fire.

Respectfully,



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